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Attorney Docket No: 40129/00901 (1549)

REMARKSI. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-18 and 20-26 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-18, 20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,462,805 to Wu et al. ("Wu") in view of U.S. Patent 4,093,356 to Bigelow ("Bigelow") in further view of U.S. Patent 6,801,283 to Koyama et al. ("Koyama"). (See 10/12/06 Office Action, pp. 2-6.)

Claim 1 recites "[a] device for displaying images comprising: a back light within the device for generating light and transmitting light from within the device toward an external surface thereof; a first circular X-polarizer having a first side adjacent to a first side of the back light; a liquid crystal display set to quarter-wave retardation having a first side adjacent to a second side of the first circular X-polarizer; a mirror having a first side adjacent to the first side of the liquid crystal display; and a second circular X-polarizer having a first side adjacent to a second side of the liquid crystal display.

The Examiner admits that Wu and Bigelow, in combination, do not teach "a liquid crystal display set to quarter-wave retardation," as recited in claim 1. (See 10/12/06 Office Action, p. 5.) To address this deficiency, the Examiner argues that Koyama teaches "a liquid crystal display set to quarter-wave retardation." (See *id.*) Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner mischaracterizes the invention of Koyama. According to Koyama, the

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combination of the liquid crystal display 22 (referred to in Koyama as a "liquid crystal layer") and the retarder 3 (or, alternately, the combination of the liquid crystal display 23 and retarder 6) serve as a quarter wave retarder. (See Koyama, col. 8, ll. 52-55; col. 9, ll. 6-12; col. 12, ll. 43-47; col. 12, ll. 56-62; Fig. 1.) Koyama does not disclose a liquid crystal display serving as a quarter wave retarder other than in combination with a retarder. While the text of Koyama does state that "a part of the liquid crystal layer 22 serves a quarter wave retarder" (Koyama, col. 8, ll. 56-57), Applicants respectfully submit that this is merely a short-form repetition of the immediate previous paragraph, which clearly states that the combination of the liquid crystal display 22 and the retarder 3 serve as a quarter wave retarder. (See Koyama, col. 8, ll. 52-55). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Wu, Bigelow and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter-wave retardation," as recited in amended claim 1. Because claims 3-8 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of, claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 10 recites "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." For the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Wu, Bigelow, and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 10. Because claims 13-18 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of, claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 20 recites "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." For the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Wu, Bigelow, and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 20.

Claim 26 recites "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." For the

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reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Wu, Bigelow, and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 26.

Claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu, Bigelow and Koyama as applied to claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-18, 20 and 26, in further view of U.S. Patent 6,738,117 to Minakuchi ("Minakuchi"). (See 10/12/06 Office Action, pp. 6-7.)

Minakuchi does not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 1. As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Wu, Bigelow and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu, Bigelow, Koyama and Minakuchi, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 1. Because claim 2 depends from and, therefore, includes all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 10 recites "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." As discussed above with reference to claim 2, Wu, Bigelow, Koyama and Minakuchi, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 10. Because claim 12 depends from, and, therefore, includes all of the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu, Bigelow and Koyama as applied to claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-18, 20 and 26, in further view of U.S. Patent 6,642,977 to Kotchick et al. ("Kotchick"). (See 10/12/06 Office Action, pp. 7-8.)

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Claim 21 recites "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." Kotchick does not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 21. As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Wu, Bigelow and Koyama, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu, Bigelow, Koyama and Kotchick, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 21. Because claim 22 and 23 depend from, and, therefore, includes all of the limitations of claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu, Bigelow, Koyama and Kotchick as applied to claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-18, 20, 21-23 and 26, in further view of U.S. Patent 5,548,108 to Moldskred et al. ("Moldskred"). (See 10/12/06 Office Action, p. 8.)

Moldskred does not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 21. As previously discussed with reference to claim 21, Wu, Bigelow, Koyama and Kotchick, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu, Bigelow, Koyama, Kotchick and Moldskred, either alone or in combination, do not disclose "a liquid crystal display set to quarter wave retardation," as recited in claim 21. Because claims 24 and 25 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

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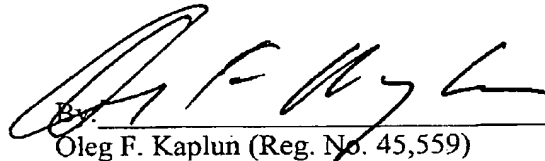
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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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